

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A skewer gripping device for use with a skewer, the gripping device comprising a food engaging surface, an outer periphery and a gripping means, characterised in that the gripping means is adjustable between a first configuration in which the skewer gripping device can move relative to the skewer and a second configuration in which the skewer gripping device is fixed relative to the skewer, and wherein, in use, the outer periphery of the skewer gripping device extends substantially about the skewer, providing a minimum distance by which the skewer is spaced from a surface on which it rests.

2. (Original) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the food engaging surface is a front face of a plate.

3. (Original) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 2, characterised in that the outer periphery is the edge of the plate.

4. (Currently Amended) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 2 or ~~Claim 3~~, characterised in that the plate is regular polygonal in shape.

5. (Original) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 4, characterised in that the plate is hexagonal.

6. (Currently Amended) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, characterised in that the gripping means includes a hollow locating portion within which the skewer can slide when the gripping means is in the first configuration.

7. (Original) A skewer gripping device as claimed in claim 6, characterised

in that the gripping means includes a clamping screw receivable within a threaded radial aperture of the locating portion.

8. (Original) A skewer gripping device as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the clamping screw has a bulbous head.

9. (Currently Amended) A skewer including at least one skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A skewer including two skewer gripping devices as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~.

11. (Original) A method of arranging foodstuffs on a skewer, the method including locating a first gripping device on a skewer adjacent a first end of the skewer, the first gripping device having a food engaging surface and an outer periphery, such that the food engaging surface is oriented towards a second end of the skewer; introducing foodstuffs onto the second end of the skewer; and locating a second gripping device on the skewer adjacent the second end, the second gripping device having a food engaging surface and an outer periphery, such that the food engaging surface is oriented towards the first end of the skewer; whereby a clamping force is provided between the respective food engaging surfaces to maintain the foodstuffs in position relative to the skewer.

12. (Original) A method of arranging foodstuffs on a skewer as claimed in claim 11, characterised in that the outer peripheries of the first and second gripping devices extend around the skewer, and the foodstuffs do not extend past a minimum distance between the skewer and the outer peripheries.

13. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 3, characterised in that the plate is regular polygonal in shape.

14. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 13, characterised in that the plate is hexagonal.

15. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 2, characterised in that the gripping means includes a hollow locating portion within which the skewer can slide when the gripping means is in the first configuration.

16. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in claim 15, characterised in that the gripping means includes a clamping screw receivable within a threaded radial aperture of the locating portion.

17. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that the clamping screw has a bulbous head.

18. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 3 characterised in that the gripping means includes a hollow locating portion within which the skewer can slide when the gripping means is in the first configuration.

19. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 4 characterised in that the gripping means includes a hollow locating portion within which the skewer can slide when the gripping means is in the first configuration.

20. (New) A skewer gripping device as claimed in Claim 5 characterised in that the gripping means includes a hollow locating portion within which the skewer can slide when the gripping means is in the first configuration.